

In the Claims

1 1. [Currently Amended] An image forming device comprising:
2 storage circuitry configured to store an initial variable configured to
3 control the formulation of an initial one of a plurality of consumable order assist
4 functions configured to assist replenishment of an imaging consumable;
5 imaging circuitry configured to consume the imaging consumable to form
6 hard images;
7 a sensor configured to monitor a status of the imaging consumable and to
8 output a signal indicative of the status;
9 processing circuitry configured to replace the initial variable with another
10 variable configured to control the formulation of another of the consumable
11 order assist functions, to receive the signal from the sensor, and to formulate
12 the another consumable order assist function responsive to reception of the
13 signal and the another variable; and
14 an interface configured to communicate the another consumable order
15 assist function externally of the image forming device; and
16 ~~wherein the initial consumable order assist function comprises one of an~~
17 ~~identifier of a supplier of the imaging consumable and an identifier of a~~
18 ~~purchaser of the imaging consumable and the another consumable order assist~~
19 ~~function comprises an other of the identifier of the supplier of the imaging~~
20 ~~consumable and the identifier of the purchaser of the imaging consumable, and~~
21 ~~wherein the initial and the another consumable order assist functions are~~
22 different.

1 2. [Original] The image forming device according to claim 1 wherein
2 the processing circuitry is configured to receive the another variable using a
3 remote query language.

1 3. [Original] The image forming device according to claim 1 wherein
2 the processing circuitry is configured to receive the another variable using a
3 Simple Network Management Protocol.

*Serial No. 09/710,404
PDNO. 10003221-1
Amendment C*

1 4. [Original] The image forming device according to claim 1 wherein
2 the imaging circuitry comprises printer circuitry configured to print hard images
3 upon media.

1 5. [Previously Presented] The image forming device according to
2 claim 1 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to formulate the initial
3 consumable order assist function comprising the identifier of the supplier of the
4 imaging consumable and an identifier of the imaging consumable being
5 monitored.

1 6. [Previously Presented] The image forming device according to
2 claim 1 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to formulate the another
3 consumable order assist function comprising the identifier of the purchaser of
4 the imaging consumable, an identifier of the image forming device, and an
5 identifier of the imaging consumable being monitored.

1 7. [Original] The image forming device according to claim 1 the
2 processing circuitry is configured to formulate the another consumable order
3 assist function comprising an identifier of the imaging forming device and an
4 order for the imaging consumable being monitored, and the processing circuitry
5 is configured to forward the order to a predetermined location.

1 8. [Previously Presented] An image forming system comprising:
2 an image forming device configured to consume an imaging consumable
3 to form hard images, to monitor a status of the imaging consumable, and to
4 store an initial variable configured to control the formulation of an initial one of a
5 plurality of consumable order assist functions configured to assist replenishment
6 of the imaging consumable;

7 a host device coupled with the image forming device and configured to
8 provide another variable to the image forming device to control the formulation
9 of another one of the consumable order assist functions, wherein the image
10 forming device is configured to replace the initial variable with the another
11 variable to control the formulation of the another consumable order assist

Serial No. 09/710,404
PDNO. 10003221-1
Amendment C

12 function responsive to the detection of a predetermined status of the imaging
13 consumable; and

14 wherein the initial consumable order assist function comprises only one of
15 an identifier of a supplier of the imaging consumable and an identifier of a
16 purchaser of the imaging consumable and the another consumable order assist
17 function comprises only an other of the identifier of the supplier of the imaging
18 consumable and the identifier of the purchaser of the imaging consumable.

1 9. [Original] The image forming system according to claim 8 wherein
2 the host device is configured to provide the another variable to the image
3 forming device using a remote query language.

1 10. [Original] The image forming system according to claim 8 wherein
2 the host device is configured to provide the another variable to the image
3 forming device using a Simple Network Management Protocol.

1 11. [Original] The image forming system according to claim 8 wherein
2 the image forming device is configured to print images upon media to form
3 images.

1 12. [Original] The image forming system according to claim 8 wherein
2 the image forming device is configured to formulate the another consumable
3 order assist function.

1 13. [Previously Presented] The image forming system according to
2 claim 8 wherein the image forming device is configured to formulate the initial
3 consumable order assist function comprising the identifier of the supplier of the
4 imaging consumable and an identifier of the imaging consumable being
5 monitored, and the host device is configured to display the identifier of the
6 imaging consumable and the identifier of the supplier of the imaging
7 consumable.

*Serial No. 09/710,404
PDNO. 10003221-1
Amendment C*

1 **14. [Previously Presented]** The image forming system according to
2 claim 8 wherein the image forming device is configured to formulate the another
3 consumable order assist function comprising the identifier of the purchaser of
4 the imaging consumable, an identifier of the image forming device, and an
5 identifier of the imaging consumable being monitored, and the host device is
6 configured to display the identifier of the imaging consumable and the purchaser
7 of the imaging consumable.

1 **15. [Original]** The image forming system according to claim 8 wherein
2 the image forming device is configured to formulate the another consumable
3 order assist function comprising an identifier of the imaging forming device and
4 an order for the imaging consumable being monitored, and the image forming
5 device is configured to forward the order to a predetermined location.

1 **16. [Previously Presented]** A method of facilitating ordering of an
2 imaging consumable useable within an image forming device comprising:
3 providing an image forming device configured to use an imaging
4 consumable to form hard images;
5 providing an initial variable within the image forming device to control the
6 formulation of an initial one of a plurality of consumable order assist functions
7 configured to assist replenishment of the imaging consumable;
8 replacing the initial variable with another variable within the image
9 forming device to control the formulation of another of the consumable order
10 assist functions;
11 detecting an amount of the imaging consumable being at a predetermined
12 status;
13 generating the another one of the consumable order assist functions
14 responsive to the detecting and the replacing; and
15 wherein the generating comprises generating the another consumable
16 order assist function using the image forming device.

*Serial No. 09/710,404
PDNO. 10003221-1
Amendment C*

1 17. [Original] The method according to claim 16 further comprising
2 providing the another variable within the image forming device using a remote
3 query language.

1 18. [Original] The method according to claim 16 wherein the providing
2 comprises providing an image forming device comprising printer circuitry
3 configured to print images upon media to form hard images.

1 19. [Original] The method according to claim 16 wherein the providing
2 the initial variable comprises providing the initial variable to cause the image
3 forming device to formulate the initial consumable order assist function to
4 comprise an identifier of a supplier of the imaging consumable and an identifier
5 of the imaging consumable.

1 20. [Original] The method according to claim 16 wherein the
2 generating comprises formulating the another consumable order assist function
3 to comprise an identifier of a purchaser of the imaging consumable, an identifier
4 of the image forming device, and an identifier of the imaging consumable.

1 21. [Original] The method according to claim 16 wherein the
2 generating comprises formulating the another consumable order assist function
3 to comprise an identifier of the imaging forming device and an order for the
4 imaging consumable.

Claims 22-24 are canceled.

1 25. [Previously Presented] The method according to claim 16 wherein
2 the initial consumable order assist function comprises one of an identifier of a
3 supplier of the imaging consumable and an identifier of a purchaser of the
4 imaging consumable and the another consumable order assist function
5 comprises an other of the identifier of the supplier of the imaging consumable
6 and the identifier of the purchaser of the imaging consumable, and wherein the
7 initial and the another consumable order assist functions are different.

*Serial No. 09/710,404
PDNO. 10003221-1
Amendment C*

1 26. Canceled.

1 27. [Previously Presented] A method of facilitating ordering of an
2 imaging consumable useable within an image forming device comprising:
3 providing an image forming device configured to use an imaging
4 consumable to form hard images;
5 providing an initial variable within the image forming device to control the
6 formulation of an initial one of a plurality of consumable order assist functions
7 configured to assist replenishment of the imaging consumable;
8 replacing the initial variable with another variable within the image
9 forming device to control the formulation of another of the consumable order
10 assist functions;
11 detecting an amount of the imaging consumable being at a predetermined
12 status;
13 generating the another one of the consumable order assist functions
14 responsive to the detecting and the replacing; and
15 wherein the initial consumable order assist function comprises one of an
16 identifier of a supplier of the imaging consumable and an identifier of a
17 purchaser of the imaging consumable and the another consumable order assist
18 function comprises an other of the identifier of the supplier of the imaging
19 consumable and the identifier of the purchaser of the imaging consumable, and
20 wherein the initial and the another consumable order assist functions are
21 different.

1 28. [New] The image forming device according to claim 1 wherein the
2 initial consumable order assist function comprises one of an identifier of a
3 supplier of the imaging consumable and an identifier of a purchaser of the
4 imaging consumable and the another consumable order assist function
5 comprises an other of the identifier of the supplier of the imaging consumable
6 and the identifier of the purchaser of the imaging consumable, and wherein the
7 initial and the another consumable order assist functions are different.

Serial No. 09/710,404
PDNO. 10003221-1
Amendment C